

COLUMBIA CANAL & POWER PLANT
Waterfront of the Broad River
Columbia
Richland County
South Carolina

HAER No. SC-17

HAER
SC
40-COLUM,
18-

PHOTOGRAPHS AND
WRITTEN HISTORICAL DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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Columbia Canal and Power Plant

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Location: Along the east bank of the Broad and Congaree Rivers, from the South Carolina Electric and Gas Company diversion dam on the Broad River to the Southern Railway Bridge on the Congaree River, located near Hayward Street.
Columbia, Richland County, South Carolina

Date of Construction: Canal - 1824 (completed); Alterations: 1891 (enlarged)
Plant - 1896 (completed)

Builder/Designer: Plant - Columbia Water Power Company

Present Use: Canal - in ruins; not in use
Plant - still in use as power plant

Significance: The Columbia Canal was designed to enable the navigation of the Broad and Congaree Rivers at their confluence in Columbia. Completed in 1824 and enlarged in 1891, the 1891 portion of the canal, significant for its method of construction, is the only portion that survives.

The Columbia Canal Hydroelectric Plant was designed to supplement electricity produced by Columbia Mills. This brick, rectangular structure has repetitive paired windows, spanned by jack arches and brick corbels along the roofline and is one of the earliest power plants to use hydroelectric power in South Carolina. It furnished electricity to homes, businesses, and manufacturing plants. It is the oldest functioning part of the South Carolina Electric & Gas Company's power system.

Source of Information: Listed in National Register of Historic Places
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